UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,667	03/29/2004	Carl Abrams	00280772AA	1144

30743   7590   01/22/2009
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK, P.C.
11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD
SUITE 340
RESTON, VA 20190

EXAMINER
TRAN, THUAN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3693	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/22/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _11-20-2009_.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _30_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) _30_ is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _22 June 2004_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   This action is in reply to the amendment filed on 11-20-2009.

2.   Claims 1-29 were previously cancelled.

3.   Claim 30 is currently amended.

4.   Claim 30 is currently pending and has been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   **Claim 30** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross et

al., US Patent 4,815,030 in view of Beaulieu et al., US Patent 5,502,637.

7.   **As per claim 30**

*   receiving, at a reference data provider a stream generated from each of a given

    plurality of entity valuation information vendors, each information data stream

    identifying the generating entity valuation information vendor and stated

monetary value of at least one subject entity which is a financial instrument (see
at least column 4 line 49-58);

- receiving a service arrangement data identifying an authorized information
  vendor list for each of a plurality of customers, said authorized information
  vendor list identifying entity valuation information vendors from among said
  plurality of entity valuation information vendors to which the customer has a given
  authorization to receive said vendor information data stream (see at least column
  8 line 3-17);

- storing said service arrangement data at said reference data provider (see at
  least column 1 line 66-67);

- storing, at said reference data provider (the central computer), a default rule for
  each of said customers, said default rule based at least in part on the customer
  stored service arrangement data, said default rule specifying an algorithm for
  generating a Best Known Value Available (BKVA) of a given subject entity (see
  at least column 2 line 5 27-39)

Examiner's note: The default rule is the decoding necessary for a particular class of
data. In Cross's invention, the decoding is performed at the central computer, thus, the
algorithm used in the decoding is at some point stored at the central computer in either
RAM, hard disk, floppy disk or other type of memory.

- computer-implemented generating for each of at least one of said customers, for
  said at least one given subject entity, a customer-specific BKVA (see at least
  column 2 line 27-33),

- the generating of the customer-specific BKVA being performed without knowledge of the data supplied by vendors to which the customer for which the customer-specific BKVA is generated does not subscribe (see at least column 1 line 62 to column 2 line 6); and

- transmitting to each of at least one of said customers the customer-specific BKVA of the subject entity; while ensuring that no customer is aware of, has access to, or otherwise benefits from a vendor data content unsubscribed for that customer (see at least column 1 line 62 to column 2 line 6).

Cross teaches generating a best known value available for a given entity by a reference data provider based only on user subscribed data feeds. Cross's method filters the unavailable data feeds before examining the data for a best price. He does not specifically teach generating a best known value for all data received by the reference data provider and comparing it to the best known value available to determine what to return to the user. However, Beaulieu teaches a investment research delivery system wherein

- computer-implemented generating, for at least one given subject entity, a best known value data (BKV) (the ranked investment research, see at least column 9 lines 17-30), based on a collection of all of said entity valuation information vendor respective information data streams (see at least column 8 line 36-40) that include the respective vendor stated monetary value of said subject entity (see at least column 4 line 25-31);

- computer-implemented forming a set H of all of said entity valuation information vendors whose generated information data stream includes the generating vendor stated monetary value of said subject entity (see at least column 9 line 6-10);

- wherein said generating compares said customer authorized vendor list to said set H and sets said customer's customer-specific BKVA of the subject entity to be said BKV if at least one of the vendors identified by the customer authorized vendor list is within set H, else sets said customer customer-specific BKVA of the subject entity in accordance with said default rule stored for said customer, wherein said setting includes applying said default rule algorithm to the information data stream of at least one of the entity valuation information vendor identified by the customer authorized vendor list (forwarding only entitled headlines, see at least column 9 line 10-16),

Beaulieu teaches that all data is searched to form a set of matches. Then matches are filtered out according to entitlements of the user. Because Cross and Beaulieu both teach a method for delivering a best value to a customer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute one method for the other to achieve the predictable result of producing a best value to a customer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Thuan Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1832.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thuan Tran
Patent Examiner
1-16-2009

/Stefanos Karmis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3693